



**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**  
**Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy**  
**August, 2000**

In 1994, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) developed, with participation from a broad spectrum of interests, a Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program to identify and address what should be done to improve protection of New Hampshire’s groundwater. A five-year work plan that contained specific tasks to address the most pressing needs was developed and implemented by DES and a variety of partners. By 1999, the majority of tasks were completed or underway and DES took the initiative to once again engage stakeholders in this continuous improvement process. The current effort’s focus has been broadened to include both groundwater protection as well as protection of surface water sources of drinking water and the program’s name changed to the Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy.

As a first step in developing the strategy all stakeholders were interviewed and asked a series of questions to determine what the next critical steps are to improving protection of these resources. From these interviews, a draft strategy was developed and three meetings were held to refine tasks and to solicit interest in various subcommittees that will be formed to address specific issues. The following is the final draft of the Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy. It should be noted that this Strategy does not contain the routine work to protect groundwater and drinking water that is performed daily by a variety of DES programs such as contaminated site remediation, source water assessment and protection, underground storage tank and hazardous waste generator regulation, etc. Instead, this strategy

represents new initiatives by DES and its partners to improve protection of these important resources.

During the development of the Strategy there were a number of issues raised that are being addressed under other forums. These issues and a brief description of the efforts underway by DES and others to address them are contained in the chart in Attachment A. Attachment B contains membership lists for the work group and subcommittees. Attachment C is a copy of the minutes from the work group meetings held to develop the strategy.

Twice a year, DES will report on progress made to the work group and other interested parties. For more information about this strategy or to become involved in a subcommittee, please contact Sarah Pillsbury at 603-271-1168.

**Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy:**

CATEGORY	ISSUE / DES CONTACT	WORK PLAN TASKS	PARTICIPANTS / SCHEDULE
Prevention	<p><b>Failed Septic Systems – Pre-existing Systems and Lots</b> (Note: Septic systems also addressed in the DES Non-Point Source Management Plan)</p> <p><u>DES Contact:</u> Sarah Pillsbury (271-1168)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Create incentives, using the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, to address problem areas.</li><li>- Identify areas with a high density of pre-existing systems in source water protection areas.</li><li>- Educate local officials in identified areas on a priority basis.</li></ul>	<p><u>Participants:</u> DES, NH Community Loan Fund <u>Schedule:</u> 2000</p> <p><u>Participants:</u> DES, Municipalities <u>Schedule:</u> 2001</p> <p><u>Participants:</u> DES, Municipalities <u>Schedule:</u> 2002/2003</p>

CATEGORY	ISSUE / DES CONTACT	WORK PLAN TASKS	PARTICIPANTS / SCHEDULE
Prevention	<b>Misuse of Storm Water Systems</b> (Note: Storm water also addressed in the DES Non-Point Source Management Plan)  <u>DES Contact:</u> Paul Susca (271- 7061)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map storm water outfalls in urban source water areas for surface water supplies and perform dry weather sampling under the Drinking Water Source Assessment Program.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, EPA, Public Water Suppliers, Municipal Public Works Staff <u>Schedule:</u> 2000 - 2003
Prevention	<b>Loss of Stormwater Recharge in Developed Areas</b> (Note: Stormwater also addressed in the DES Non-Point Source Management Plan)  <u>DES Contact:</u> Sarah Pillsbury (271-1168)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate in Merrimack’s ordinance development.</li> <li>- Develop a model ordinance with a committee which addresses issues such as: development of an approach for local determination of imperviousness/recharge standards, limitations on initial clear cutting of subdivisions, and standards for roadways and parking lots.</li> <li>- Identify and address regulatory hurdles to appropriate infiltration of storm water including development of a list of acceptable BMPs and addressing concerns about maintenance.</li> <li>- Perform municipal outreach related to this issue.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Merrimack committee <u>Schedule:</u> 2000  <u>Participants:</u> DES, Subcommittee (see attached list) <u>Schedule:</u> 2000 - 2001  <u>Participants:</u> Same as above <u>Schedule:</u> 2000 - 2001  <u>Participants:</u> Same as above <u>Schedule:</u> 2001, ongoing
Prevention	<b>Protection of Current and Future Public Drinking Water Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply Favorable Gravel Well Analysis (GIS tool) to identify likely future stratified drift well sites statewide and identify abandoned reservoirs that may serve as future supplies.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2000

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>ISSUE / DES CONTACT</b>	<b>WORK PLAN TASKS</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS / SCHEDULE</b>
	<u>DES Contact:</u> Sarah Pillsbury (271-1168)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommend appropriate land use controls and/ or programs to protect current and future sources of public water supply and identify legislative initiatives necessary to carryout protection recommendations.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Subcommittee (See attached list) <u>Schedule:</u> 2000 - 2002
<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Water Supply Land Conservation</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Sarah Pillsbury (271-1168)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement recently enacted legislative program for a matching grant program to conserve critical water supply lands.</li> <li>- Identify a stable funding source for the Water Supply Matching Grant Program</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Municipalities <u>Schedule:</u> 2000, Ongoing  <u>Participants:</u> DES, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Study Committee (being formed) Note: Committee will coordinate with the legislative study committee on this issue. <u>Schedule:</u> 2000, Ongoing
<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Disposal of Waste Pesticides</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Sherry Godlewski (271-0688)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convene interagency work group to promote appropriate disposal of pesticides including identifying funding mechanisms so that pesticides from commercial operations can be collected during hazardous waste collection events.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, NHDOA, F &M Note: Participants will coordinate with the legislative study committee considering advance disposal fees <u>Schedule:</u> 2000
<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Abandoned Wells</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Rick Schofield (271-1974)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educate well drillers through outreach and fact sheets about recent rule changes that require abandonment.</li> <li>- Educate corrective action program managers at DES and their regulated community to ensure proper abandonment of monitoring and other on-site wells.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, NH Water Well Association, United Well Drillers and Pump Installers Association of New Hampshire <u>Schedule:</u> 2000

CATEGORY	ISSUE / DES CONTACT	WORK PLAN TASKS	PARTICIPANTS / SCHEDULE
Prevention	<b>Greater Emphasis on Surface Water Source Protection</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Paul Susca (271-7061)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop model watershed rules</li> <li>- Develop and provide outreach to municipalities affected by watershed rules</li> <li>- Determine regional need for a study on the impact of eutrophication on treatment costs to establish the cost effectiveness of surface water protection measures. If need exists, pursue funding and conduct study.</li> <li>- Guidance for municipalities and watershed groups on development and land use practices restrictions in water supply watersheds.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, OSP (note: document reviewed by many stakeholders) <u>Schedule:</u> 2000  <u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2001, ongoing  <u>Participants:</u> DES, NEIWPC, NEWWA <u>Schedule:</u> 2001, If study 2001-2002  <u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2001, ongoing
Prevention	<b>Agricultural Sources of Pesticides, Nutrients, and Pathogens</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Paul Susca (271-7061)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a small, hassle free grant program to assist small operations with addressing potential contamination sources.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, NHACD, NRCS <u>Schedule:</u> 2000, ongoing
Prevention	<b>Emergency Response Planning</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Sherry Godlewski (271-0688)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify local emergency responders and provide them with a map of water supply locations.</li> <li>- Provide water suppliers with time of travel information for major water supply rivers.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, OEM <u>Schedule:</u> 2001  <u>Participants:</u> DES, USGS, Water Suppliers <u>Schedule:</u> 2001

CATEGORY	ISSUE / DES CONTACT	WORK PLAN TASKS	PARTICIPANTS / SCHEDULE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement standards for water supplier contingency plans to address emergency response planning.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, NHWWA <u>Schedule:</u> 2002 – 2003
<b>Education</b>	<b>Need for Targeted Outreach/Education</b> <u>DES Contact:</u> Paul Susca (217-7061)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revise the outreach and education plan developed under the last CSGWPP work plan.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Subcommittee (see attached list) <u>Schedule:</u> 2000, implementation of plan ongoing
<b>Education</b>	<b>Outreach to Private Well Owners</b> <u>DES Contact:</u> Bernie Lucey (271-2952)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement a Private Well Initiative</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Subcommittee (see attached list) <u>Schedule:</u> 2000-2003
<b>Education</b>	<b>Water System Operator Education</b> <u>DES Contact:</u> Paul Susca (217-7061)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve Course Curriculum</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, NHWWA, NERWA <u>Schedule:</u> 2001
<b>Education</b>	<b>Water and Chemical Usage Conservation in Site Development and Maintenance</b> <u>DES Contact:</u> Sherry Godlewski (271-0688)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborate with NH Comparative Risk Project/Minimum Impact Development Partnership (they are currently developing site design recommendations, prioritized for effectiveness).</li> <li>- Develop and distribute material on water, nutrient, and pesticide conservation to homeowners and businesses.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, Subcommittee (see attached list) <u>Schedule:</u> 2001  <u>Participants:</u> Same as above <u>Schedule:</u> 2001-2004, ongoing

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with water and lawn care industry to distribute outreach material. (Note: There may be IPM grants for the pesticide conservation.)</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> Same as above <u>Schedule:</u> Same as above
<b>Education</b>	<b>Educate the General Public about Risk</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Nicole Clegg (271-4071)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop flyer to accompany Source Water Assessments and other DES correspondence to homeowners.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES, DHHS, Stakeholder Review <u>Schedule:</u> 2001
<b>Resource Assessment</b>	<b>Water Availability - Comprehensive Water Management</b>  <u>DES Contact:</u> Brandon Kernen (271-0660)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More closely coordinate related Department effort: in-stream flow rules, large groundwater withdrawal rules, water quality standards</li> <li>- Develop a model, in partnership with USGS, to assess water availability.</li> <li>- Develop a plan to expand current groundwater well network used to measure water levels.</li> <li>- Develop water conservation policies in conjunction with Large Groundwater Withdrawal and In-stream Flow Rules.</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2000, ongoing  <u>Participants:</u> DES, USGS, Stakeholder Review <u>Schedule:</u> 2001 – 2002  <u>Participants:</u> DES, USGS <u>Schedule:</u> 2001 – 2002  Participants: DES, Subcommittee (see attached list)
<b>Resource Assessment</b>	<b>Ambient Quality of Groundwater and Drinking Water Sources</b>  <u>DES Contacts:</u> Brandon Kernen (271-0660) Rick Chormann (271-1975)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get water quality data into central, GIS information management system including data from private wells and up-gradient wells at contaminated sites.</li> <li>- Pursue EMPACT grant and other opportunities to pilot identification of areas of concern for naturally occurring contaminants and to expand knowledge of</li> </ul>	<u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2000 – 2004  <u>Participants:</u> DES <u>Schedule:</u> 2001-2002

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		<p>ambient quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Investigate well tagging as a means of linking water quality to a location and develop viable program.</li></ul>	<p><u>Participants</u>: DES, Subcommittee (see attached list)</p> <p><u>Schedule</u>: 2001-2002</p>